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AUTHOR Shaw, Jean M.
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ABSTRACT

Noting that children learn through active involvement and concrete experiences as well as through dialogue about these experiences, this book provides instructional guidelines and class activities to assist the cognitive, social, creative, personal, and physical development of young children based on early childhood research and theory. Chapter 1 of the book discusses the advantages of thematic unit planning, provides guides for classroom practice, and presents sample units designed around the themes of "Dinosaur," "Ourselves," and "Springtime." Chapters 2 through 5 provide background information on social living, language development, mathematics, and sciences, respectively; they also discuss implications for unit and curriculum planning, and describe several learning activities that may be used in thematic units. Chapter 2 includes classroom management principles to show democratic social values. Chapter 3 includes storytelling, drawing, book making, and journal activities to enhance language acquisition. Chapter 4 includes classification, ordering, and measuring activities, while chapter 5 includes activities in life science, environmental science, and physical science. Chapter 6, "People Working Together for Young Children," presents ideas for teacher collaboration and parent and community involvement. Contains 42 references. (KDFB)

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